Rajatgarh-Barang, Titlagarh-Lanjigarh, Rahama-Paradeep doublings, Napada-Gunupur gauge conversion.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Onion shortage

285. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country had been experiencing shortage of onions for the last ten months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production of onions had suffered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was, however, 10 per cent short supply of onion in the market during the month of October, 2005. Shortage of onion was due to unseasonal rains in States of Maharashtra and Gujarat adversely which affected the storage of previous rabi crop and also reduced the production in kharif 2005 by about 1.00 lakh ton.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Production of kharif onion in the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra had suffered due to unseasonal rains in October, 2005 which reduced the production by about 1.00 lakh ton.

Flood/Drought assistance to States

†286. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States hit by floods or flood like situation or were affected by drought during this year;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.